



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks **GRAY WOLF CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

We are seeking professional volunteers to assist with the Montana Gray Wolf Conservation and Management Program (www.fwp.mt.gov/wolf). This is a great opportunity to gain valuable field experience and references, while working in the rugged and beautiful Montana Rocky Mountains. Montana is home to a wide diversity of large vertebrates including elk, moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goats, mule deer, white-tailed deer, black bear, grizzly bear, and mountain lions.

Work Environment: Work is conducted throughout western Montana. *This is a physically challenging position, and extreme climate and terrain will be encountered.* Volunteers need to be in good physical shape to accomplish various tasks such as carrying heavy loads and hiking/backpacking long distances in mountainous environments. Accommodations are ephemeral and vary from trailers to bunkhouses to tent camping throughout Western Montana. At times volunteers camp near livestock to monitor wolf activity. Volunteers must have their own backpacking and camping equipment. Travel is mostly by 4-wheel drive, mountain bike, and foot. These positions require a lot of driving both to work areas and while surveying or monitoring. Volunteers must possess both the ability and desire to live and work, in remote mountain conditions, long days and long hitches. The fieldwork is dynamic and changes often as work needs and situations arise.

Work Schedule: Highly variable, but hitches are loosely based on 10 days on/4 days off. Schedules are based around ever changing field efforts and logistics.

Duration: June - September, but may vary depending upon conditions, volunteer availability, and project funding. Ideally volunteers are available for all or most of the field season.

Duties: Conduct wolf surveys. Surveys include driving, biking, and hiking on roads and trails, and howling in suspected wolf areas to document presence and numbers. Monitor wolf activities in livestock areas and associated hazing or harassing wolves. May assist with capture and radio collaring wolves, conduct reproductive surveys, locate and collect data from wolf home sites. In general duties vary widely from vehicle maintenance to teamwork to survey work to livestock conflict management and much more.

Qualifications: These qualifications are **ABSOLUTELY** necessary, because of the **remote** and **independent** nature of the fieldwork in **difficult climate and topography**:

- Ability to backpack, camp, and work and live for extended periods of time in remote settings.
- Orienteering (use of map and compass for navigating) proficiency.
- Excellent physical condition.
- Must hold valid driver's license.
- Possess the ability to get along with others in backcountry settings for 2+ week time periods.
- Possess the ability to communicate in a helpful friendly manner with interested and affected publics.
- Completion of or enrollment in college/university wildlife, or closely related curriculum.

The following skills and abilities are additionally helpful:

- Experience in radio telemetry in mountainous terrain. Capture and handling/processing of wildlife.

Application Period: Apply Now! Candidates will be selected in April.

How to Apply: 1) **Cover letter** detailing your professional **interests** and **experience** as it pertains to these positions, and detail your **period of availability** 2) **Resume** 3) List of names and contact information of **3 references**.

Ideally email this info to: klaudon@mt.gov

If you must, you can also Send application materials to: **Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks**
Attn: Wolf Volunteer Program
490 N. Meridian Rd.
Kalispell, MT 59901
Telephone: (406) 751-4586, Fax: (406) 257-0349